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Statement from Evansville Bishop Joseph M. Siegel in reaction to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA – June 24, 2022 – The U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the case of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization represents a historic, landmark moment in the ongoing effort to protect the sanctity of life from conception to natural death in our nation. The Catholic Church in America has been unwavering in our stand against abortion; and we, in Southern Indiana, should be particularly proud of how we have consistently stood against this troubling, literally fatal legal decision for almost five decades.

To be clear, the Dobbs decision and subsequent overturning of Roe v. Wade states that there is no constitutional right to abortion, and issues such as these should be decided by the people at the state level. It does not end abortion in this country as many suggest. Therefore, we should recognize this decision as one more step in our defense of human life. We now need to turn our attention to our state legislators to urge them to protect in law the rights of the unborn.

Our parishes and diocese also will redouble our efforts to provide outreach and assistance to women and families experiencing unexpected and crisis pregnancies. We will continue to help provide the resources they need before and after birth through programs like Walking with Moms in Need and Project Gabriel, and offering assistance through the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Catholic Charities. We also will continue to reach out with love, healing and reconciliation to those whose lives have been and will continue to be haunted by the effects of abortions, whether they were procured in facilities across state lines or through abortion pills received by mail. Along with our own efforts as Catholics, we will work with crisis-pregnancy centers and other pro-life organizations in our communities in advocating for life and serving the needs of women who are looking for assistance.

Let us all be instruments of peace as we work to promote a Culture of Life in our communities. As we work to provide legal protection for the unborn in Indiana and care for their mothers and families, we are also committed, through teaching, dialogue and witness, to help bring about a change of heart and mind that all might recognize the sanctity of and inherent right to life of all persons, from conception until natural death.

As we begin a new chapter in these efforts, let us first turn to God in prayer: in thanksgiving for this landmark Supreme Court decision and for all those who worked so tirelessly over the past 49 years to help make it happen; for continuing conversion of our hearts and those of our fellow citizens; and for the gifts of wisdom, courage and perseverance as we undertake our ongoing mission of being apostles of the Gospel of Life.